

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview granted on March 9, 2010. During the interview claim 48 was discussed in light of the prior art of record.

The above amendments have been made to further clarify and define Applicants' invention and to expedite the present application to allowance.

The amendment is submitted with a request for a 1 month extension of time.

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 48-50, 52, 59-61, 65, 67-68 and 114 will be pending, of which claims 48, 67, and 114 are independent.

New claim 114 finds support in the specification and no new matter has been added. Claim 114 is not anticipated nor suggested by the prior art of record for the reasons stated below with respect to claims 48 and 67. Additionally, claim 114 includes the novel limitation of each effector being physically "positioned around its corresponding identifiable processor"

The Examiner has rejected claims 48, 49, 52, 59-61 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,473,653 to Schallhorn et al. The cited art does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention as set forth and Applicants respectfully disagree with Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 102(b). More specifically, Schallhorn teaches that the main controller 103 of Fig. 14 is the microprocessor. *See Schallhorn col. 8, lines 23 and 24.* Schallhorn also teaches that the main controller 103 of Fig. 14 is coupled to switches or controllers 115 through one data line 130. According to Schallhorn, one microprocessor, which is the main controller 103, controls all of the electrodes positioned at different locations along the lead. Schallhorn specifically teaches that there is only one microprocessor per data conductor and, hence, a ratio of one-to-one between the electrical conductor and the main controller, which is the microprocessor. Accordingly, Schallhorn teaches away from having multiple microprocessors sharing one conductor. In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention teaches that one conductor is shared between multiple microprocessors. More specifically, Applicants claimed invention recites electrically coupling at least two identifiable microprocessors "to the at least one shared electrical conductor."

Applicants assert that independent claim 48 is neither anticipated nor suggested by Schallhorn. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of independent claims 48 as set forth on page 2 of the NFOA.

Claims 49, 50, 52, and 59-61 depend from and further limit independent claim 48. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 49, 50, 52, and 59-61 as set forth on page 2 of the NFOA.

The Examiner has rejected claims 48, 49, 52, 59-61, 63, and 66-68 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of US Patent 6,163,716 to Edwards et al taken in view of US Patent 5,797,903 to Swanson (the clarification to the language used on page 3 of the NFOA was made by the Examiner during the telephone interview). Claims 63, 64, and 66 have been canceled. The Examiner's rejection of independent claim 66 is now moot. In response to Examiner's assertions about Edwards in view of Swanson, Applicants note that neither Edwards nor Swanson neither teach nor suggest the use of an electrical conductor shared between multiple microprocessors, wherein the microprocessor is surrounded by the effector as set forth in Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, the combined reading of the prior art fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention that includes coupling at least two identifiable processors "to the at least one shared electrical conductor" and the effector "surrounding the microprocessor".

Applicants assert that independent claims 48 and 67 are not anticipated nor made obvious by Edwards or Swanson, taken alone or in combination as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of independent claims 48 and 67 as set forth on Page 3 of the NFOA and full allowance of same.

Claims 49, 50, 52, 59-61, and 65 depend from and further limit independent claim 48. Thus, claims 49, 50, 52, 59-61, and 65 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 49, 50, 52, 59-61, and 65 as set forth on page 3 and page 4 of the NFOA and full allowance of same.

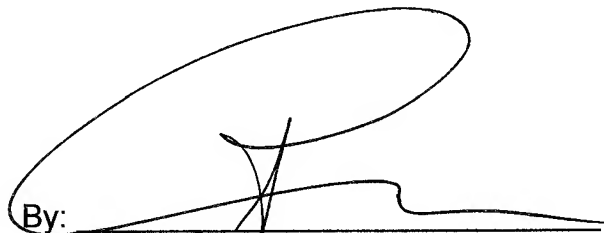
Claim 68 depends from and further limits independent claim 67. Thus, claim 68 is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claim 68 as set forth on page 3 of the NFOA and allowance of same is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is now in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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